

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, in the last few years, the United States has faced a devastating economic crisis. As a result of the economic downturn, many homeowners have lost their homes or are at imminent risk of foreclosure. The Obama Administration launched the federal Home Affordable Modification Program ("HAMP") to stem the escalating tide of home foreclosures with its ruinous effects on families and their communities. HAMP's purpose is to provide eligible homeowners with permanent loan modifications on terms they can afford in order to avoid foreclosure of their homes.

Although this program is far from perfect, it has helped more than 600,000 families lower their mortgage payments and stay in their homes. H.R. 839, the HAMP Termination Act of 2011, will end this program. I have yet to see any Republican alternative to our housing crisis! There are 3 million foreclosures forecasted this year nationwide and a housing turnaround is not expected for at least three years.

Missing in the Republicans limited discussion on housing is the impact of the housing crisis on communities of color in the United States. An estimated 17 percent of Latino families and 11 percent of African American families have lost their homes or are at an imminent risk of losing their homes. Meanwhile, Republicans continue to eliminate all government involvement in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. While these institutions need to be reformed, they do serve important functions such as making the 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage available to the general public and providing mortgage credit and affordable rental housing for communities of color. If we do not focus seriously on our minority communities, which are disproportionately affected by the economic crisis, the home buying environment for these communities will worsen as the economy recovers. The American dream will cease to exist for many. Fewer mortgages would be available to working-class families in the long run without some government-backed financing.

Eliminating support to distressed homeowners at this point in time would be disastrous for neighborhoods trying to recover from

the foreclosure crisis. Instead, we should focus our efforts on ways to make HAMP a useful, wide-reaching program with meaningful goals, such as pushing lenders and loan servicers to reduce the principal on underwater loans and giving struggling homeowners real relief.

The latest foreclosure rates in the 7th congressional district of Indiana are higher than the national average. Terminating HAMP and denying critical assistance to struggling Americans is not the answer. HAMP has allowed thousands of Hoosiers to survive unemployment. The program has lowered monthly mortgage payments, and given families the breathing room they needed to keep their home. There is no easy way to repair the deep damage caused by the housing crisis. It will take time and a sustained, comprehensive effort. I will continue to fight on behalf of Hoosiers to keep them in their homes.

### RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—BLAKE BALDA

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 1, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the third district of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the third district's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

I have had a unique opportunity over the course of this past year to serve at the DFW USO each Wednesday morning. This agency prides itself on serving, assisting, and providing morale for military personnel both past and present. I've thoroughly enjoyed this service site helping soldiers navigate through the airport to their respective gates, packaging and sending boxes of magazines for troops overseas, and working in the USO Club. The USO has been a great service site for me because of my love and respect for the United States military. The work I do is very rewarding. Nothing tops the opportunity to interact with the people who keep this nation safe each and every day. Listening to the stories of the soldiers has made me appreciate their sacrifice more than ever before. I look forward to continuing my work with the USO as well as embarking on a new undertaking with the Dallas Honor Flight, an organization that raises money to send World War II veterans to their memorial in Washington, D.C. CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the US. Armed Forces.

—Blake Balda

### RECOGNITION OF VINCENNES RIVET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 1, 2011*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vincennes Rivet High School Girls' Basketball Team from Vincennes, Indiana. On March 5, 2011, the Lady Patriots won the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Class 1A State Championship for the first time in school history. Today, I would like to congratulate Coach Tim Young and the young ladies for their success.

Capping off a regular season with a perfect record of 21 wins and 0 losses, Coach Young led his #1 ranked team to the school's third straight appearance in the state finals where they achieved a 49 to 40 victory against #2 ranked Turkey Run to bring home their first championship. I would also like to commend Coach Jeff Thompson and his team for their exceptional season.

Coach Young constantly promoted teamwork and sportsmanship and was named the Evansville Courier & Press Southwestern Indiana Coach of the Year. His daughter, senior point guard Sarah Young, was named the all-Southwestern Indiana Player of the Year.

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